

POLICY OF STATE OF DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION	POLICY NUMBER I-02	PAGE NUMBER 1 OF 2
	RELATED NCCHC/ACA STANDARDS: P-1-02/4-4401 (ESSENTIAL)	
CHAPTER: 11 HEALTH SERVICES	SUBJECT: EMERGENCY PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION	
APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER:		
EFFECTIVE DATE: 11-19-07		

PURPOSE:

Mental health care in emergency situations where an inmate poses an imminent danger to him/herself or others may include administration of emergency psychotropic medication.

POLICY:

1. The inmate has the right to refuse psychotropic medication except in an emergency situation that represents imminent danger to inmate or others.
2. Health care staff does not forcefully administer psychotropic medications unless a court order exists or a physician has ordered the administration of forced psychotropic medication.
3. Forced psychotropic medication treatment requires authorization either by a licensed psychiatrist or in consultation with a licensed psychiatrist.
4. The order for the medication specifies:
 - a. Name and dosage of the medication.
 - b. Frequency of dosage.
 - c. Route of administration.
 - d. Timeframe for the order.
5. Documentation in the health record includes:
 - a. the inmate/patient's condition
 - b. the threat posed
 - c. the reason for forcing the medication
 - d. other treatment modalities attempted

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- e. plans for less restrictive treatment alternatives or transfer of the patient as soon as possible
- 6. Use of involuntary psychotropic mediation is limited to inmates when:
 - a. The inmate/patient exhibits an acute or chronic diagnosed mental illness and
 - b. The inmate/patient is in imminent danger to self or others and
 - c. Less restrictive or intrusive measures have been employed or have been judged to be inadequate.
- 7. A face-to-face assessment by the psychiatrist is required to extend an order for emergency forced psychotropic medications.
- 8. Healthcare or mental health care staff monitors the inmate/patient for adverse reactions and side effects.

References:

National Commission on Correctional Health Care: Standards for Health Services in Jails, 2003, J-I-02

American Correctional Association: 3rd Edition with 2002 Supplements ALDF, 3-ALDF-4E-18.1